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Men's basketball honors fallen Sea Gull with memorial



/ Emma Reider Image

NICK LEWIS / Sports editor

FERGUSON-The legacy of Jack Ferguson lives on in the Salisbury men's basketball program.

A memorial was recently added to the team's locker room honoring the memory of Ferguson and his time in the maroon and gold.

Ferguson was diagnosed with Histiocytic Sarcoma, a rare form of cancer, in the summer before the 2018-19 season. He passed away on March 11.

Strength and conditioning coach Matt Nein worked closely with Ferguson in his time on the team and constructed the memorial.

Nein said Ferguson will be remembered for his character and his leadership in his time as a Sea Gull.

"He was just such a great all-around guy," Nein said. "He was an exceptional leader, and I think everybody saw that and knew that."

Nein has experience building jersey cases and shadow boxes, primarily for the women's basketball team. Head coach Maurice Williams approached him originally about the idea and allowed him to run with it.

Before he began working, Nein got in touch with Ferguson's former roommate and former Sea Gull Chase Kumor, who graduated from Salisbury last spring.

Together, the two decided that they wanted the memorial to resemble a locker. They wanted it to seem like if Ferguson was still there, he would walk in and put his jersey on with the rest of the team.

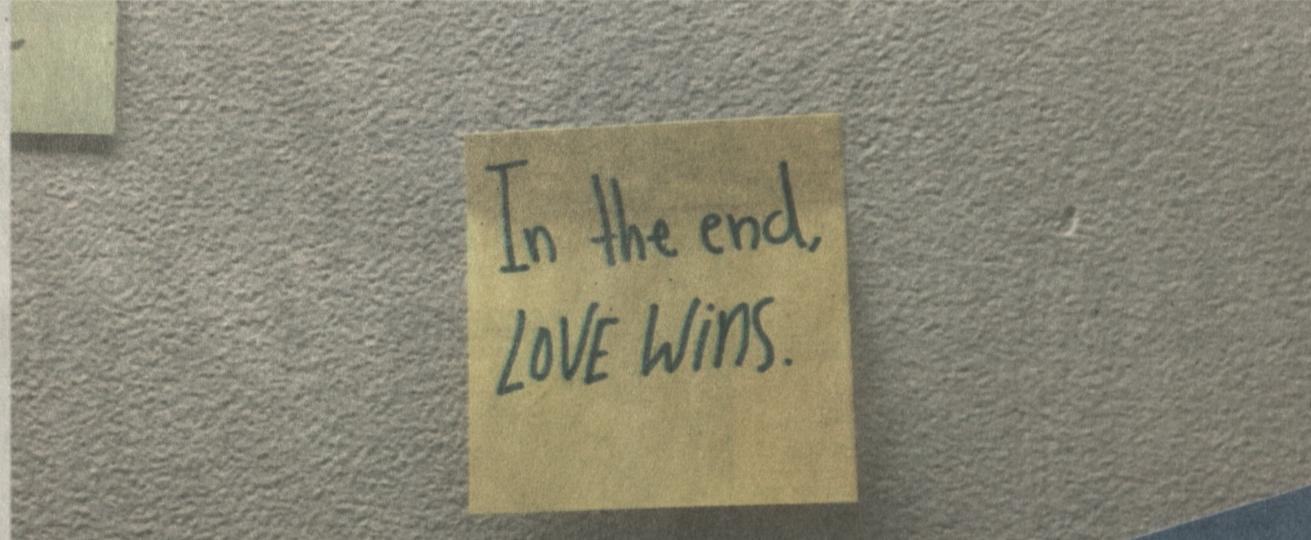
This led to the addition of Ferguson's jersey and a game-worn shoe to the case. They also eventually added lights on the inside, controlled a remote and put the motto "You're Never Out of the Fight."

Nein said the first step was deciding that they wanted to use the wood from the old bleachers in Maggs Physical Activities Center to build the frame of the box.

Ferguson / page 12

'In the end, LOVE wins': The sticky note that started a movement

CAROLINE STREETT / Gull Life editor



The sticky note that sparked a movement / Caroline Streett image

LOVE-A stairwell that was once covered in hate speech, racial slurs and threats is now splashed with color and positive thoughts as Salisbury University students came together to fight back against the recent vandalism in SU's Fulton Hall.

What started out as one positive sticky note on the north stairwell of the academic building has sparked a movement that is spreading positive thoughts and actions throughout the SU community.

"In the end, LOVE wins": These five words in green Sharpie on a yellow Post-It note are what pushed SU students to join together in an effort to suppress the hate and give the SU community hope.

When SU lecturer of art Jessica Cross made her way up the Fulton Hall stairwell Nov. 6, her eyes were immediately drawn to this small, heartwarming message.

As she walked into her first class that day, she shared her findings with her students and proposed the idea that they should continue the wall with their own words of empowerment. Cross wanted to make the wall more permanent in a sense that they could "wallpaper" it with notes.

"I saw the one sticky note and thought how easy it could be for somebody to just come and take it off," Cross said. "But what if there were a million sticky notes up? A million signs. A million positive things — then they can't take it down."

SU senior Rachel Eure was all ears as her professor proposed the idea, and she immediately went to retrieve a pack of colorful sticky notes she had to share with the class.

"I just knew I had a bunch of really colorful sticky notes, and I felt like the colorful ones would stand out more and be more noticeable," Eure said.

As a result of a few members of her art class taking part in designing a positive note, Eure has seen the impact of their actions in the community's support and drive to continue the wall.

"They're spreading," Eure said. "They're spreading everywhere. I was walking up the stairs this morning, and I was like, 'Wait a minute! There's more!'"

The initiative to spread positive messages has migrated across various walls of Fulton Hall and has even made its way to other academic buildings like Conway Hall.

Seeing as the recent vandalism targeted people of col-

ABOUT

The Flyer is Salisbury University's student newspaper — composed by students for students. The organization was established in 1973 to keep the SU community informed and entertained.

Issues are published monthly throughout the regular school year and are printed by Delaware Printing Company of Dover, Del. A total of 1,500 copies are distributed on campus per circulation.

The Flyer strives for accuracy and corrects its errors immediately. If you believe a factual error has been printed, feel free to contact staff. Thank you.

@suflyer for the latest

Love wins / page 3

Undergraduate journal hopes to shine spotlight on Sea Gull studies

K.B. MENSAH / News editor

LARIDAE-The tradition of student research at Salisbury University reached new heights as a new undergraduate student research journal titled Laridae launched in November.

The journal, named after the taxonomic family that houses the seagull, is the first undergraduate research journal in the school's nearly century-long existence.

Equally as difficult as research was starting up the journal from scratch.

The journal is the fruit of a combined effort by students, faculty, the Office of Graduate Studies and the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity.

The fall 2019 edition features articles from current students and recent graduates and covers a wide berth of topics, from the educational value of graphic novels to a study of the climate on Delmarva.

The launch event on Nov. 21 brought students, faculty and members of the community together in the Guerrieri Academic Commons. Local sponsors were also in attendance.

Many in attendance expressed excitement for the watershed moment in SU research.

"I think it's a great moment for the university and for undergraduate research, which has been something we've worked on at the university for a long time," said Dr. Maarten Pereboom, dean of the Fulton School of Liberal Arts. "It reflects our commitment to mentoring. Mentoring is making a huge difference in the undergraduate experience. And the fact that we now have this journal that spans disciplines and reflects the mentoring excellence that we have across the university is a real moment to celebrate."

To Pereboom, who has focused on undergraduate research since he arrived at SU almost

three decades ago, research is one of the best things a student can do in his or her time as an undergraduate.

"Going deep on something and really sort of mucking around with the methodology and the ways of thinking within the discipline, the epistemology — how does the discipline work? What are the questions that it asks? How does it get at the human experience? What are its approaches? To really sort of go deep into that I think is an incredibly useful experience."

Senior Harrison Leon, editor-in-chief of Laridae, believes that the journal will be impactful not only as a way to publicize SU student research, but to make SU students more competitive in the job and fellowship market.

"There's a very small percentage of people who are able to say that they published words as an undergrad," Leon said. "To bring that here to SU means a lot to me personally, because I believe that SU is an emerging presence in academia and also undergraduate research and creative activity."

Senior Amar Nabouli, who was in attendance, shared a similar sentiment.

"I think that a lot of students do research, but they don't think that it will go anywhere past what they do in the lab," Nabouli said. "I think that this shows that like your work can truly be highlighted outside of the laboratory setting, and you can actually be highlighted for your work in a broader setting."

Student research not only enriches students' experiences, but in turn makes the network of knowledge at the institution stronger.

Interdisciplinary communication was one of the main goals for Laridae. Leon describes the communication between different schools on campus as "siloed."



Arielle Tesoriero Image

"There was no real primary channel for interdisciplinary communication, and so what we wanted to do was introduce a journal or some type of platform that would enable communication across disciplines," Leon said.

Leon and the rest of the Laridae plan to find staff members to replace the graduating members, collect submissions and release the next journal in the spring of 2021.

Those wishing to obtain a physical copy of Laridae are by now out of luck, but SU students and faculty can access a digital copy online.

'We are SU' aims to invest millions in campus causes

JAKOB TODD / Staff writer

SU-This past June, "We Are SU: The Campaign for Salisbury University" publicly kicked off its fundraising journey toward a \$75 million goal to support student scholarships, programs and an array of campus-wide needs.

Jason Curtin, vice president for Advancement and External Affairs, also serving as executive director of the Salisbury University Foundation, is immensely excited about the unique purpose of the fundraising effort.

"The campaign is really about the people that make up Salisbury University ... it's an investment in people," Curtin said.

While previous fundraising themes have focused on physical improvements, such as Perdue Hall and Sea Gull Stadium in 2010 when \$40 million was raised, "We Are SU" wants to support the needs of individuals.

According to the administration, not only will students benefit from greater scholarship funds and faculty from better investment in programs, but schools such as the Honors College and the College of Health and Human Services also need private support for their members.

Michelle Pryor, SU's annual giving coordinator, runs a multitude of giving-back programs for the campaign and sees every day the impacts on students.

"All those things that students do on a daily basis to make their resume look so good — travel, extracurriculars, scholarships, research, going to conferences — we can provide all of those things by fundraising for them, by everyone participating in the campaign."

Student clubs and organizations also benefit tremendously from campaign funds.

The women's rugby team, for example, recently got to go to the national championship because of the money it was able to raise a few months prior.



Salisbury University Image

Additionally, the Kickboxing Club raised around \$25,000 for practice space and equipment, and it now boasts many more members as a successful organization.

Currently sitting at around \$52 million raised, any gift donated to the university counts toward the "We Are SU" campaign.

Curtin highly encourages anyone to donate — students, staff, parents, alumni — and suggests using the campaign website that can direct potential donors how and where to give. For alumni specifically, there is an annual fund office that allows former Sea Gulls to give any dollar amount they choose so they can "get in the habit of giving."

"There is a legacy of people that are here, so when you go around and see the names on these buildings and the names of the schools like the Perdues and the Hensons and the Seidels, those are families that made an investment in this place because they believe in it, and their investment pays off today," said Curtin.

There are events within the "We Are SU" campaign to encourage fundraising, such as SU's Day of Giving and the Student Scholarship Luncheon. This year, the events will be held on the same day in April.

On Giving Day, students, staff and alumni are able to give to the university's departments, clubs and organizations or even the university as a whole.

"If it exists, you can give to it," Pryor said. Donors even typically match the gifts two to one, so a student's \$25 donation becomes a \$75 donation. Consequently, last year's Giving Day brought in about \$200,000 of gifts in one day, where around 40% of the donors were students.

Curtin anticipates that in three years, the \$75 million goal will be reached, just in time to celebrate SU's 100-year anniversary in 2025.

"We have some pretty unique gifts that we're hoping we can announce soon," Curtin said. More information can be found on the campaign web page.

Students still seeking answers after streak of vandalism, threats

K.B. MENSAH / News editor

VANDALISM-The recent vandalism-turned-mass shooting threats scribbled on the walls of Fulton Hall last month have caused shockwaves in Salisbury University and the greater Salisbury community.

"Sandy Hook comes to SU kill [racial slur]" was found in a stairwell in the hall, prompting a massive community demonstration and impromptu forum.

Students questioned the administration's failure to alert students to a mass shooting threat as well as the decision not to cancel classes.

But according to many students, this is nothing new. At the forum held in response to the most recent bout of vandalism, many students voiced the fact that this has happened for years.

Since the semester began, at least four incidents of vandalism have occurred in Fulton Hall. The recent developments have students like sophomore Eunice Awuah searching for answers from the administration.

"According to seniors that I've spoken to, this is not the first time it's happened. Some people claim it has been going on for years now, but this school just ignores it," said Awuah. "You know, kind of like what happened with this one. I didn't even know this was the fourth time this has happened this year."

To students like Awuah, the administration choosing to hold large events in response to a mass shooting threat is all wrong.

"They keep holding assemblies, which I feel like it's really dangerous. What is this?" said Awuah. "Being in one place at a time makes it easier for him to kill you all."

As of Dec. 8, no suspects have been identified.

"I need cameras put in that Fulton hallway now. You won't prevent this incident because it already happened, but it could prevent other incidents from happening," said Fulton student Glory Ngwe. There are still no cameras in that stairwell. And there are many more locations on campus that have



K. B. Mensah Image

no security camera coverage.

SU President Charles A. Wight assured that more safety measures were being taken, including the installation of new cameras, but there is a growing sentiment that SU is not as safe as the brochure and website would offer.

"I'm not safe at this school," said Yayé Sy, a biology major at SU, to the Washington Post.

The sentiment has extended beyond Salisbury and down US-13. A UMES employee tweeted, "Any student out there at Salisbury University that wants to get an education and be celebrated for being black, and don't have to worry about the racist remarks on your school walls...come to UMES."

Dr. Maarten Pereboom, dean of the Fulton School of Liberal Arts, has refuted the idea of the writing on the hall leaving a permanent stain on SU.

"This is so not who we are. I really want to sort of isolate this as an instance of one person seeing fit to violate our walls with really obnoxious, vulgar,

racist language that has no place whatsoever in the Fulton School," Pereboom said before the most recent incident.

"We are fully committed to talking about racism, we're fully committed to talking about all of the big human problems that are out there."

This is not the first time racist rhetoric or imagery has appeared at Salisbury University. In 2016, shockwaves were sent through the community when it was revealed that the two students responsible for a racist drawing targeting African Americans in the Blackwell Hall Library were black themselves.

Students say that regardless of who the culprit of the most recent crimes is, this is a frightening time. "It still doesn't make me feel better because, like, even if you're a black and you do that, it's still not okay, you know?" Awuah said. "And it still scares me because now it's like, you never know what it is. It could be like the person next to you, which makes it more nerve-racking."

Students continue to search for answers and assemble in defiance of threats.

School officials have partnered together with the Crime Solvers of the Eastern Shore to offer a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to arrests and prosecution in the case. Individuals with information are encouraged to contact the Salisbury University Police.



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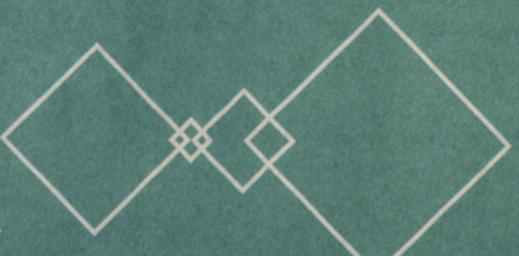
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EDITORIAL

THE CONTROVERSY OVER NEW LIKE-LESS INSTAGRAM / p5

Two SU professors give the scoop on 'hookup culture'

MELANIE RAIBLE / Editorial editor



/ Melissa Block Image

HOOKUPS – With the rise of dating apps like Tinder, Bumble and Grindr, young people are looking at dating and sex in a way that older generations may not understand. "Hookup culture" is a term often used when describing our generation's view on love, sex and relationships. While some feel that dating apps make dating easier, others feel that they are the primary reason for our skewed views when it comes to sex and love.

The American Psychological Association defines the word "hookup" as "uncommitted sexual encounters between individuals who are not romantic partners or dating each other." Hookup culture is a term

being discussed over and over again in media everywhere from small blogs to the New York Times.

The term "hookup" is very vague, and many have different understandings of what it means. Salisbury University psychology professor Dr. Lance Garmon understands that hookup culture is growing rapidly across college campuses and feels it's an important topic to cover in his class discussions.

"The single biggest thing I would say about 'hookup culture' is that it means different things to different people ..." he said. "... I have found it interesting that almost everyone thinks they know what the term 'hookup' means, but their personal definition does not match the definition of everyone else."

Garmon brings up a good point, which is that hookup culture changes its meaning depending on who's using it.

Not only does a person's age reflect their own definition of what hooking up means, but so does their gender. There is a gender dichotomy when it comes to many things, including sex and how it's viewed.

SU senior Maddie Roberts feels that there is clear inequality about how women are treated in comparison to men when it comes to sex and hooking up.

"Women are constantly treated differently from men when it comes to sex. If a guy has a higher body count, he is called a 'player' or a 'stud,' but when a woman has a high body count, she is ridiculed and labeled as a 'slut' or 'whore,'" Roberts said.

Even though our generation is more accustomed to hookup culture and dating apps, there are still issues with this way of thinking. In addition to the gender inequalities, Garmon shared some of the other dangers that arise while practicing these social trends.

He explained that while the traditional interpretation of non-committed sexual activity was looked

at negatively, most people today don't look at sex that way anymore. However, because sex is looked at more casually, many aren't taking their own health into concern.

According to the U.S. National Library of Medicine, there is a strong association between number of sexual partners and having an STD. Women and men with five or more sexual partners are eight times more likely to report having an STD than those with only one partner.

Another SU professor who feels that hookup culture is an important topic to include in her class is communications professor Dr. Chrys Egan. She describes hookup culture as "a social trend of casual sexual encounters without the intention of starting a committed relationship."

Egan explained that possible dangers could include "devaluing oneself or partners, negative feelings about the lack of committed relationships, hurting other people's feelings and increasing the likelihood of sexually transmitted infections."

Even though casual sex is starting to be seen as less taboo, it doesn't stop some of the negative consequences that can come from it, like sexually transmitted diseases and infections. While there is nothing wrong with wanting more than one sexual partner or using dating apps strictly for sex, always be weary of the possible consequences.

So, the next time you log onto Tinder or someone asks if you want to "Netflix and chill," be safe and make sure you cover all the bases (not just home plate).

Small schools, big benefits



/ LAURA AMRHEIN / Staff writer

/ Salisbury University Image

SU – With roughly just over 8,700 students, Salisbury University is on the smaller size in terms of colleges. A smaller school does not mean smaller opportunities or experiences, however. Many students at Salisbury University chose the school partly for its size. Smaller schools offer numerous benefits both in and out of the classroom.

"I think you have more opportunities to do more things that you wouldn't be able to do at a large school, and the teachers know your name more here ... I had the opportunity to be an SI [supplemental instructor], and I don't think I'd have had the opportunity to do that at a larger school," SU junior Jade Miller said.

Miller's sister who attended Salisbury also saw the opportunities that can be present at a smaller school.

"My sister went here too, and she was able to do a lot of research with her professor, like she actually published a research article with her professor, and I know at a large school, people don't have an opportunity to do stuff like that," Miller stated.

Another benefit of a smaller school is the class size. Salisbury's average undergraduate class size is 24 students and is sometimes even

met her," Arango said.

Just as students like being able to get to know their professors on a personal level, professors at Salisbury enjoy being able to get to know their students on a first-name basis.

"I think we get to know the students better, and I think students like that too. I've noticed that some students [are] intimidated at first when they come to any unfamiliar setting, so it's always nice to kind of know your professor, be able to say hi to them and feel comfortable coming in and asking whatever [question they have]," geography professor Keota Silaphone stated.

Students also may value Salisbury's small size due to the convenience of going from place to place on campus. Most buildings at Salisbury are less than a 10-minute walk from each other, which allows students to get from class to class without being late.

"I used to go to University of Maryland, and it was awful because I had to take, like, 30-minute walks, like sprinting, to get to class [on time]," Arango stated.

Small colleges certainly don't mean small benefits. Often, they offer numerous opportunities, some being opportunities that are not as easily found at a larger school. Students are able to create relationships with faculty, the students around them and even the community.



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To like or not to like: Students share their thoughts on Instagram taking away likes

LAURA AMRHEIN / Staff writer

LIKES – Take the perfect picture. Edit to perfection. Post and wait ... How many likes will it get? For many of today's younger generation, social media has become an everyday aspect of their lives. Many spend hours on social media a day, including on Instagram, a social media platform that was created in 2010.

While Instagram certainly has its perks, such as allowing people throughout the world to connect, it also can lead to stress when one posts a picture. Those who use Instagram may judge their picture on not how much they personally like it, but instead on how many likes that it receives. They may worry what others will think if they don't get enough likes. Users sometimes even choose to delete a picture if it doesn't receive enough likes.

"Yeah, I have deleted a picture that didn't get enough likes. I think it was a picture that was ... a view or something, and I was like, I guess this's not my branding because it didn't get as many likes," junior Usra Alraki said.

As many believe to be an attempt to reduce the comparison of how many likes others receive on their photos compared to oneself, Instagram CEO Adam Mosseri announced that the company will be getting rid of likes on others' pictures. That is, likes on one's own picture will still be visible, but likes on those they follow will not.

Many Salisbury students recognized the competition that Instagram users may feel when looking at the amount of likes another person received. Because of this, students felt that getting rid of likes on others' pictures may help to reduce such comparison.

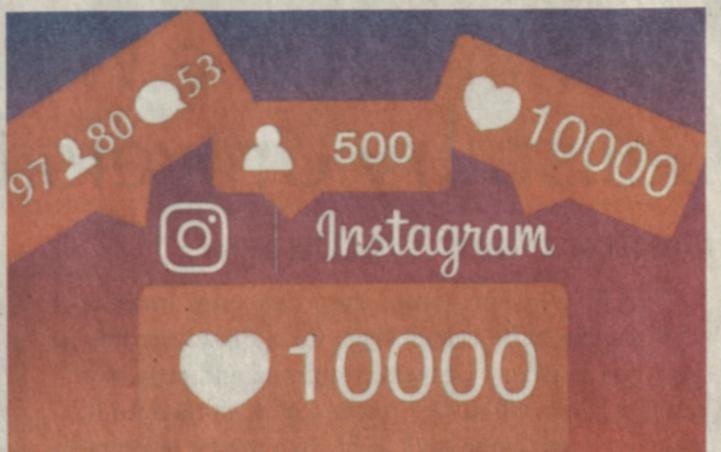
"I think there are a lot of people who are very conscious of how many likes their friends are getting compared to their own, so if you take that away, they won't be so self-conscious about that," senior Michael Webber said.

Freshman Paige Sine agrees with Webber that Instagram likes can cause comparison that lowers one's self-esteem.

"I think our generation is so focused on the amount of likes they get, and it kind of has to do with how they approve of themselves or not. I just think it is a good idea because it [Instagram] is really competitive," Sine said.

Students such as Alraki also feel that without visible likes on other people's pictures, there won't be a standard to compare one's amount of likes to.

Even more, some Salisbury students feel that "likes" take away from the Instagram experience and



/ Social Media Explorer Image

prevent users from actually focusing on looking at others' posts and pictures.

"It is kind of like a check off of our to-do list for the day to just go through your feed and like everything, more so than actually going on Instagram to see what people are doing ... and I think that's kind of taking the fun away from it," Sine said.

Still, other students believe that likes aren't the only aspect of Instagram that can lead to low self-esteem. For example, FOMO, also known as fear of missing out, is quite common when one sees others doing something fun that they aren't involved in.

"It would probably help ... but then again, you would still see people having a good time. I'm not sure what matters more to people ... I'm not sure if it's more important seeing the likes or seeing other people having a good time anyways," junior Carmen Schwartz said.

Besides possibly helping to reduce comparison and competition on Instagram in terms of likes, students are unsure whether or not making likes invisible will affect large influencers and those who possibly profit off of the number of likes they receive.

"I know people make money off of likes, and I guess if likes aren't as popular, then they wouldn't make as much money. I'm not sure though," Schwartz said.

Instagram's announcement of taking away visible likes on others' photos appears to be a step in the correct direction in helping to reduce social media comparison and the low self-esteem that can accompany it. Still, being able to still see the number of likes one's own photo receives may hinder the effectiveness of removing likes. Only time will tell how Instagram's new implementation will affect the usage of the very popular social media app.

Write to the Editor

Letters to the editor are welcomed and encouraged. Students, please include your name and class. Faculty members, please include your department. Letters should be no longer than 400 words. The Flyer reserves the right to refrain from publishing any text. Please email your letter as an attachment to Editor-in-Chief Sofia Carrasco, or in person at Office 125-M in GSU's Student Activities Center (CSIL). Deadline for submission is Friday at 5 p.m. Please email letters subjected "Letter to the Editor."

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GULL LIFE

HIGHLIGHTS

Jennifer Hope Wills takes her talents from Salisbury University to Broadway and back

CAROLINE STREETT / Gull Life editor

STARDOM-For some, they can only imagine what it's like to be center stage for a Broadway musical. For Salisbury University alumna and professor Jennifer Hope Wills, she dreamed of it, worked for it, achieved it and came back to SU in a matter of years.

Being brought up in a world of singing and performing in Ocean City, it was only natural that Wills end up in the big leagues of theatre production; however, for Wills, this was not always her plan.

After growing up with parents who owned a theatre company and being surrounded by the spotlight of performing, Wills decided that in her adult life, she wanted to do anything but that. So, instead of theatre arts, Wills attended SU as a history education major.

But alas, Wills could not run from what was meant to be. She explains this inevitable fate of hers as a "funny story."

"When I came to Salisbury, I wanted to do anything but theatre or music ... I didn't want anything to do with any of that," Wills said. "But then I started to sing in the local choir and community theatre, and I was like, 'Aw, man! I guess I do still like this."

Wills ended up changing her major to music and getting her master's at Indiana University in opera, but after teaching, she still felt a part of her that wanted to live out a childhood dream.

"So, then I thought ... if I don't go now and see what happens ..." Wills said. "So, then I'd gotten it in my mind that why don't I just see if I can do it?"

At 31 years old, Wills made her big Broadway debut in 2004 as the understudy for Belle in Disney's



Wills listens and accompanies Mullins on the piano while Mullins sings a German aria. / Caroline Streett image

"Beauty and the Beast." Wills then starred in a number of top regional theatres around the country and went on to co-star alongside Brooke Shields in the Production of "Wonderful Town" on Broadway.

Enjoying the spotlight and New York City for nearly six years, Wills began to miss the laid-back lifestyle that came with living on the Eastern Shore. She also decided that Salisbury was a better environment to raise her son, so she returned.

In her first semester back at SU as a professor, Wills has raved about the campus and how nice it feels to be home.

Currently, Wills meets with ten different students on a weekly basis with 30-minute to hour-long

SU TO ADD DAYCARE CENTER/ p7

Broadway / page 10

SU student's research adapts video gaming to aid hearing-impaired audiences

JACK FEICHTNER / Staff writer

VIDEO GAMING-A Salisbury University student who enjoys playing video games like "Apex" and "Overwatch" and building personal computers has taken an interest in universal audio accessibility for gaming.

SU senior and member of SU's Honors College Cameron Kane is dual majoring in computer science and interdisciplinary studies.

Kane also holds the honor of a rare acceptance into Upsilon Pi Epsilon, the first and only existing international honor society in the computing and information disciplines. UPE has chapters at more than three hundred college campuses.

During the summer of 2017, Kane realized there was a problem in the gaming industry with accessibility. Specifically, Kane's imagination was sparked with interest one day when he came across a video on Facebook.

The video was of a well-known YouTuber and actor Daniel Durant, best known for his part in ABC Family's show "Switched at Birth." Born without the ability to hear, Durant has never known sound, but has always loved video gaming and has shared those experiences in a series of videos on YouTube.

In an article by the New York Times, Durant explains his passions.

"I love gaming," Durant said. "There are a lot of deaf gamers in the world, and online we all get together and challenge each other. We establish a computer connection where we can look at each other on screens, talking to each other in sign language."

After noticing the issues in gaming about the lack of subtitles and other disadvantages to people who are hearing-impaired, Kane started asking his professors questions on ways to fully develop the many ideas he had on audio assists and audio accessibility.

People with hearing impairments miss a lot of audio that is communicated through expensive headsets that improve vocalizations of footsteps and other sounds in games. The audio gives gamers an advan-

tage over other players who are hard of hearing.

Even at a young age, Kane said he was "able to put a designer hat on while playing video games."

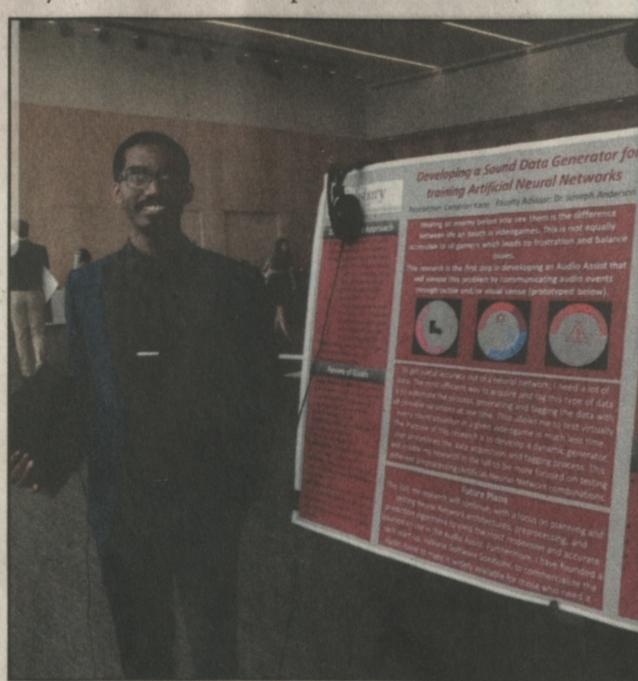
After Kane spoke with his professors about audio recognition and audio localization, he came up with the solution.

"By applying generalized accessibility features into games, developers would not have to build their games from the ground up," Kane said. "This would allow the hearing-impaired to be communicated audio events through tactile and/or visual sense."

Kane's research gave way to his winning of the Guerrieri Fall Research Grant and the 2019 SU Entrepreneur Competition.

Kane's ultimate inspiration behind the project was his love for video games, which he feels had a grand impact on making him who he is today.

"Video games developed me as a person," Kane said. "I love the attention to detail and wanted everyone to be able to experience that."



Jack Feichtner image

Kane expressed how he enjoyed seeing the outside perspective from the developers in the way they built the mechanics that teach the player to improve in skill in the game.

Valkyrie Software Solutions is a tech startup that Kane founded to commercialize the audio assist to make and mass produce his prototype to the public.

Aside from his time gaming and creating, Kane also spends time being a cybersecurity engineer. Kane explained that he takes pride in providing protection for the people from the "cyber brutes of society."

Having his family express how important helping people is with their career choices swayed him toward a different route by helping people who use the internet.

Kane's interest in computers and technology has spanned throughout his lifetime, long before his studies at SU.

In high school, Kane spent his time working as a web intern for Montgomery County Public Schools. The position consisted of helping the MCPS central office and providing interface between directors and the IT department.

Kane helped MCPS to design their site, explained to the staff what was possible and offered up advice on some previous ideas that were out of date and provided solutions on how to fix them.

Kane feels that his time interning for MCPS, along with his membership in the International Honor Society in the Computing and Information Disciplines and his work in developing a sound data generator for training artificial neural networks, has developed him into a liaison at communicating between technical and non-technical people.

"I am good at communicating to people who are not specialists what is going on," Kane said. "Making the complicated knowledge of computer science understandable to everyone."

Love wins/ from

page 1

or, SU senior Valerie Simon pointed out that many of her peers of color did not feel safe on campus following the incidents.

Simon is optimistic that this movement will help ease the minds of the victimized that there is hope and that the SU student body will not stand for violence or negativity toward anyone.

"I'm hoping at least this made them feel that there are other students here who aren't awful and have their back through this," Simon said. "I'm really just hoping it made the black students who were targeted by all of this feel like we're standing with them."

SU senior Marley Parsons was a student in Cross's class who also felt personally moved by the idea to stand by her peers. On her sticky note, Parsons wrote, "We all bleed the same color."

Parsons expressed extreme upset in the thought that someone in our community could be filled with such unrelenting hatred.

"I think it was really sad just seeing that someone could write such hurtful things and have no compassion for other people," Parsons said. "But I think everyone coming together and writing positive stuff, and making those affected feel equal I think is really great, like there's still positivity in the world."

Parsons explained that with the use of sticky notes, the movement could be convenient, seeing as the notes are an extremely accessible product that most students already have.

She also highlighted that unlike recent events, what they are doing is not damaging any school property.

"It's not like we're creating more vandalism; it's a sticky note," Parsons said. "They could take it down if they wanted."

Within the hour of one class putting their thoughts on the wall, the movement took social media by storm.

Parsons enjoyed seeing how quickly people caught on.



SU senior Marley Parsons's note to inspire hope and inclusivity on campus/ Caroline Streett Image

It was really cool how, like, with social media, just that morning, we all put it on our stories, and then by the end of the day, the stairwell was full," Parsons said.

In addition to members of the class posting on social media, SU President Charles Wight also shared photos of the movement on his personal Instagram.

In the caption of his post, Wight expressed gratitude and pride for the SU community for fighting back against the hatred in such a positive light.

"This has been a difficult week for our community, but I have been encouraged by the passion and resilience of our students and their determination to send a strong message that hatred and discrimination have no place on our campus," Wight said in his Instagram post of the sticky note movement.

The movement has spread via social media and word of mouth, and it has gone beyond the walls of the Fulton stairwell. Sticky notes can now be found in various buildings all over campus, and students have also gone as far as decorating the sidewalks with

chalk messages of love and positivity.

SU junior Emily Donahue was so inspired by the initiative that she wrote a multitude of positive messages for her peers. Some of Donahue's notes included messages like "You matter" and "Give someone a hug today."

A big part of the movement was to make the students initially targeted by the vandalism feel that their peers stand by them and that this wall of love and hope overpowers any message of hate.

"Even if it doesn't have that huge of an impact, just the fact that there are these positive messages and people are like 'OK, I'm not alone in this,'" Donahue said.

Cross hopes that this movement helps bring the ray of hope to students that "This is what we really are."

"What's spreading is this idea of positivity over negativity, and you know, in the end, love wins," Cross said.

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Students and staff look to add early learning center to Salisbury University

ANNIE GEITNER / Staff writer

been receiving requests to explore this subject for years," Walker said.

DAYCARE-The results of the campus-wide survey on the question of the possible needs for early childcare center at Salisbury University are in, and the security it would provide for non-traditional students here at SU.

The report of the results showed that the idea of an SU-affiliated early learning center here on campus has tremendous support behind it. Support was seen from staff and faculty as well as the student body.

As chair of Salisbury University Women's Forum, Dr. Elsie Walker began efforts for the center back in spring of 2019, but she did not expect the kind of support the movement has been receiving.

"I had a hunch there would be a lot of support, but I was amazed at the amount of support and the number of responses we had," Walker said. "It wasn't news to me that faculty and staff would want to explore this possibility, but I wasn't so aware of how many students would be positively impacted."

Walker spoke about how not only did the survey receive a lot of support through the 1,200 responses, but it also drew attention from SU sophomore and Student Government Association Academic Affairs Director Sierra Smith-DiLeo.

Smith-DiLeo spoke about how former director Tram Nguyen had been focused on creating an ELC here on campus during her term as director, and those same aspirations had been passed down to the Smith-DiLeo, along with the title.

"It obviously falls into academic success for students, so that's why I got interested in it," Smith-DiLeo said. "I reached out to anyone I could. I emailed so many people about just information if anyone had tried to do something before. I even looked at other programs."

Walker also expressed that it had been repeatedly brought to the attention of the SUWF that the need for this type of program was great.

"The Salisbury University Women's Forum has

"What we really want this facility to be is a place for superior learning and instruction," Walker said. "A place that entails the work experience that students need within the school of education and is overseen by mentors or experts in early learning."

According to the report released to the student body on Nov. 13, the next steps of the process consist of patience in waiting for approval from SU's executive staff members.

"We just have to be patient; we are waiting," Walker said. "The executive staff has to weigh the project."

Numbers have to be crunched and configurations about logistics made about whether or not SU could support an affiliated ELC. But one thing is certain: The ELC program has the support of the staff and faculty members as well as the SGA.

The goal is to foster a connection between campus and community, and Smith-DiLeo and Walker believe the ELC has the potential to do so.

"It could become an inspiring and meaningful connection between the university and the community," Walker said.



Amy Wojtowicz Graphic

Broadway/ from page 8

coaching by Wills.

Because her students all range in their ability levels from beginners to the more advanced, Wills works to tailor each lesson to work for each specific student.

"Each student is different, and each lesson changes drastically based on which student is walking through the door," Wills said. "Voice is all about your body ... so you have to sort of be a detective to figure out how each student works."

Seeing Wills on Broadway nearly eight years ago, SU senior Alyssa Mullins had never imagined she'd be in the same room as Wills, nonetheless have her as a professor at the university. When she received word that Wills would be her voice coach this semester, she could not contain her excitement.

"It was really incredible to see someone who had come from this place and had started in the same arena of home-grown community theatre and gone to that," Mullins said. "When I found out she was my voice teacher this year, I sent her the largest fangirl email."

Mullins takes Music 390, which is a course specifically for voice lessons for non-music majors. She enjoys the class because she feels that the course consists of a wonderful blend of exercises and course work.

Mullins emphasized that the class allows for a great deal of flexibility in that no student is required to learn a new language or memorize specific pieces for a musical jury.

Right now, Wills is helping Mullins with an English aria and a German aria from "The Magic Flute." Mullins feels that much of the class works around technique and emotions.

"Singing is very emotional, and I don't know that everybody really realizes how much it takes not only to sing in front of people, but to sing to in front of someone directly that you are expecting to criticize you," Mullins said. "To ask someone to make you good ... What does it feel like, what does it sound like, but most importantly, what does it make you feel like?"

It is this sense of true emotion and depth that Mullins feels Wills has brought to her lessons that no teacher had ever done for her in the past.

Mullins feels that Wills' experience on Broadway brings not only authenticity and experience to the classroom, but

also a sense of genuineness that not every class has the ability to give a student.

"She is an incredible addition to the faculty because she brings not only that real-world experience, but she can give it to you in a way that is non-condescending. It's very much like, 'I'm willing to tell you as much as you're willing to listen,'" Mullins said. "She's incredible."



Wills listens and accompanies Mullins on the piano while Mullins sings a German aria/ Caroline Streett image

2

SPORTS

HIGHLIGHTS

A STORY OF REVIVAL FOR OCTAVION WILSON / p10

Salisbury receiver fought illness, depression to return to football

NICK LEWIS / Sports editor

WILSON-From end zones to hospital beds, the story of Salisbury University wide receiver Octavion Wilson goes far beyond the gridiron.

The former starting receiver at one of the top Division III programs in the country struggled to climb stairs and could not feel his hands when catching the ball.

Two separate medical conditions kept Wilson off the field and threatened to end his football career.

He missed over two years of action while he recovered.

But he refused to give up.

His relationship with his family, friends and God helped him get through his darkest times.

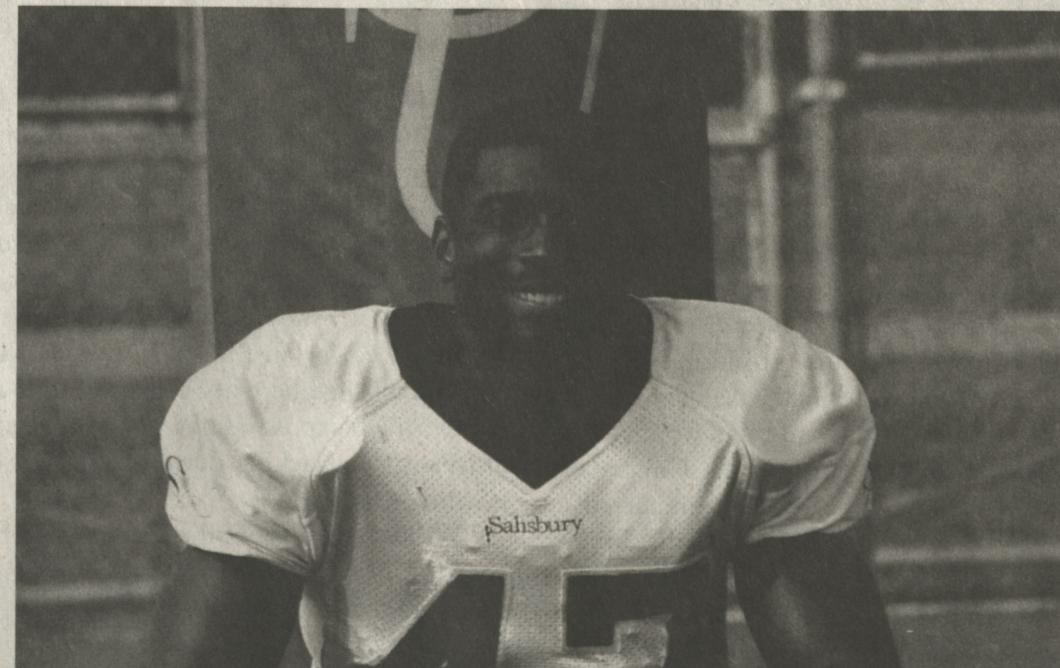
But on Sept. 6, Wilson made his return to the field, this time donning the maroon and gold.

The senior wide-out now heads the receiving corps for the sixth-ranked team in Division III football and will be playing in the third round of the NCAA Tournament on Saturday.

"It's honestly been like a Cinderella story," Wilson said. "Not many things happen the way this has happened."

Joining the Mount

Wilson played high school ball at Milford High School, where he made the varsity team as a freshman running back. But the six-foot, 212-pound standout would move out wide for college, and the process to choose a collegiate program did not take long.



Salisbury University receiver Octavion Wilson poses for a photo during his first season with the Sea Gulls' football team/ File Image

A visit to Alliance, Ohio was the only one he would make. The opportunity to join the University of Mount Union, which held 11 titles at the time, was something Wilson couldn't pass up.

While he did not play in his first season, Wilson was named a starter in his sophomore campaign and brought in 167 receiving yards and five touchdowns.

A successful season for the Mount brought on a playoff matchup against St. Lawrence. Wilson would bring in 19 receiving yards and a touchdown.

The Raiders secured the victory over St. Lawrence University and would eventually claim the

2015 Division III National Championship.

But the first-round matchup was Wilson's final game of the season.

He felt off after the contest, primarily suffering from a headache. However, the situation proved to be much worse.

He was diagnosed with pericarditis, the inflammation of the pericardium, two thin layers of a sac-like tissue that surround the heart, hold it in place and help it work, according to heart.org.

Rather than worry about the X's and O's, Wilson had to fight to get back on the field.

Wilson / page 10

Salisbury field hockey star finds passion through different sport

DANIELLE TYLER / Staff writer

GIVING BACK-Salisbury midfielder Arielle Johnston found her calling through the foundation of sports and a mission trip to Uganda last winter.

Johnston has been a standout for the Salisbury University field hockey team. She secured the 2019 Capital Athletic Conference Player of the Year Award for her contributions to the third-ranked team in Division III.

But the standout midfielder never planned to pick up a stick.

The Crisfield native grew up wanting to play soccer. She had family members who played, and she wanted to get involved with the sport as well.

"I grew up playing soccer ... I didn't grow up playing field hockey," Johnston said. "My mom started me in soccer when I was, like, five. My brother played, so I wanted to also. I didn't want to try field hockey at all — I thought it was a girly sport."

Johnston was pushed to give field hockey a try around sixth grade because Crisfield High School did not have a women's soccer team.

While she continued to play soccer until the end of eighth grade, Johnston's life had changed from that point. It did not take long for Johnston to fall in love with field hockey.

As a community health major, Johnston was unsure of what she wanted to do after graduating. She knew one thing for certain, though: she wanted to help others, regardless of the field.

Johnston's faith led her to wanting to go on the mission trip. Her mother told her about a magazine that was advertising a mission trip she thought Johnston may be interested in.

She was right. Johnston was very intrigued by the opportunity and decided to go all in on the opportunity.

Johnston volunteered as an assistant soccer coach during the mission trip in Uganda. She served as both a mentor and a friend to the children at the camp.

Johnston said that the goal of Reaction Tour, the group in charge of orchestrating the trip, inspired her to want to continue helping people.

"For the longest time, I wasn't sure how I really wanted to use my degree to help people," Johnston said. "When I read why the founder started the ministry to use the avenue of sports to empower individuals to help their community, it resonated with me, and I wanted to be a part of it."

During her time there, a couple obstacles arose that Johnston had to tackle as a mentor to the kids.

It rained on one of the days of the trip, and the campers weren't happy about having to lose a day of soccer. Johnston took the opportunity to speak to the kids about real-life situations.

"I remember telling the kids that this is like life. Sometimes, it's not going to be what you want, and you're going to have to choose how to make the best out of it," Johnston said. "I tried to take that role as a mentor because you must choose the mindset you want to have."

While Johnston helped the campers overcome obstacles, she had to endure an obstacle of her

own.

Johnston flew out of Maryland to Texas, then from Texas to Dubai, then over to Uganda.

The first flight to Texas got delayed, so Johnston had to sit in the airport until around 5 a.m.

Once Johnston landed in Texas, there was no time to spare. She had very little time to change and get ready to board another airplane.

"I had to meet the other group at 7 a.m., so as soon as I got off the flight, I had to sprint to the hotel and change," Johnston said. "I didn't sleep at all, so on the flight from Texas to Dubai, I slept the first seven hours of it."

But despite the lack of sleep and the long flights over and back, Johnston said the experience was worth every second.

For Johnston, the experience was more than just being a soccer coach and doing activities with the campers. It was about giving the kids the tools they need to succeed in life, both as an individual and in the community.

The mission trip allowed her to combine two of her favorite things: sports and helping others. Moving forward, the experience is one she will not soon forget.

"I felt very humbled and honored to be a part of it," Johnston said. "Just to be a part of the lifelong impact and empowering the kids ... was very awesome."



Arielle Johnston (middle) with campers and other volunteers from Reaction Tour / Megan Kay Photography Image

Senior left tackle producing on and off the gridiron

DANIELLE TYLER / Staff writer

NORWOOD-Salisbury University football's senior left tackle Tyler Norwood may spend a lot of time listening to Bruno Mars, but in the classroom and on the field, he is all business.

Norwood was recognized for his academic and athletic achievements as he was named to the College Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-District First Team on Thursday.

The award is given to student-athletes that maintain at least a 3.3 grade point average and have reached sophomore athletic and academic standing. Student-athletes must have participated in at least 50% of the team's games and be a starter.

His success is a result of many factors in his life, but he credits his mother as his main motivation.

When Norwood was growing up, his mother was pursuing her nursing degree. Norwood said she is the reason behind his work ethic.

Despite being a single mother, she always made time to support him through every struggle and circumstance.

"My mom had me her senior year of high school, and she's a nurse now," Norwood said. "Her work ethic means a lot to me. For her to go to classes and have a son at such a young age, still finding time to make it to all my games, it just means so much to me."

While Milford, Delaware native carries a 3.41 grade point average and has made the dean's list twice.

He is also a conflict analysis and dispute resolution major with a minor in athletic coaching at Salisbury.

Norwood said the routine and sometimes hectic schedule of being a student-athlete has helped him to learn to balance his different responsibilities well.

"I think whatever he says to people, they usually respect what he has to say," Lanham said. "His work ethic is unmatched, all the work he put in this offseason is really showing now, so a lot of people respect him for that."

Norwood and his teammates on the offensive line pace a Salisbury offense that is ranked fourth in rushing, eighth in scoring offense and 27th in total offense in Division III.

Norwood came into college weighing around 285 pounds and increased his weight to about 315 to play guard at Salisbury.

Instead of playing guard, the coaches wanted Norwood to play offensive tackle, so he had to drop his weight back down to around 270.

He has helped the sixth-ranked Salisbury football team clinch the New Jersey Athletic Conference Championship and a spot in the NCAA Division III Championship Tournament as well as the second-highest national ranking in school history.

Lanham said he will miss Norwood's goofy personality the most when he graduates.

"I'm going to miss his personality," Lanham said. "I think he is a funny guy, and I'm probably going to miss his mustache and the light-heartedness he brings."



Tyler Norwood protects against the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh pass rush on Sept. 14/ Sports Information Image

Wilson/ from page 8

"I scored the first touchdown in the playoff game, we were on ESPN ... I was 19 years old and I was living the dream at Mount Union," Wilson said. "Then the next week, I was in the hospital bed, and they were pumping morphine in me because I was in so much pain, and it took me to a dark place."

Despite the condition, Wilson was able to suit up for the 2016 campaign.

But something was still wrong.

Wilson would be diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy after the season, the result of damage to the nerves around the spinal cord and brain, according to the Mayo Clinic.

After fighting to get back on the field, Wilson was sidelined once again.

He decided to leave Mount Union to return home to recover. With the different health problems taking place, Wilson said he needed to get away.

"I was so sick, I didn't really care about the classes or the money," Wilson said, "I just got in my little blue Chevy Aveo and booked it home."

Wilson had fallen to a new low. He said the medicine he was taking caused suicidal thoughts, and he tried to take his life. According to the receiver, doctors had said this could be a side effect of the medication.

His mother, Teresa Wilson, felt the pain her son was going through every day and was thankful that he decided to return home.

"It was really hard for me, because he was seven hours away, so it's not like I can hop in my car and drive all the way to Ohio," she said.

Getting Back on Track

There were numerous steps on the road to recovery for Wilson.

When Wilson decided to come home, the charges he left behind began to pile up. His room and board, meal plan, past-due tuition and other expenses totaled over \$10,000.

Wilson got four jobs back home, working for Uber and Lyft while also holding two pizza delivery jobs.

Jared Ruth, a close friend and former teammate at Mount Union, said Wilson never let the situation get to him.

"He actually kept a pretty positive attitude, better than most would do in his situation," Ruth said. "He went through a lot of stuff, but he always kept working and training."

Ferguson/ from page 1

Those old bleachers were the last spot fans watched Ferguson take the court.

"Every game that he played, this is where people sat to watch him play," Nein said. "It was pretty cool to be able to incorporate that in."

The players on the team did not know about the case. Williams and Nein brought the team into the locker room to unveil it on Nov. 16.

The players were brought into the dark locker room, and many walked past the wall near the entrance. After talking briefly about Ferguson and what he meant to the program, Williams turned on the lights inside the case.

The team also put the video of this unveiling on Instagram.

Nein said the emotional reaction in the locker room went far beyond what was caught on video.

"The place erupted, and they were really, really ecstatic to see that, but then the lights come on and the video ends," Nein said. "It's what happened after that, and the emotions from the individuals who played with him ... because they understand that Jack is here, he is part of this program and he always will be a part of this program."

Junior guard Johnny Fierstein played alongside Ferguson in his freshman season.

Fierstein said last season was difficult not only for Ferguson, but for those on the team who were used to seeing him in the locker room and on the court every day.

"It definitely was a lot to go through, someone you're so used to seeing and being around, and he's gone," Fierstein said. "It put everything in perspective, because he would have given anything to be out there with us."

Having to face this along with the coaching controversy around the team last season was a lot for the program to handle.

Nein said there was one saying, though, that helped the men's basketball team stay successful and together

The next hurdle was recovering academically. When Wilson left Mount Union, he failed the classes he was enrolled in and his 3.0 GPA dropped to a 1.2.

Wilson took 24 credits at Delaware Technical Community College in order to rectify his GPA and get back on schedule with his academics.

His mother said no matter how much pain Wilson was in, he was not going to sit back and let the illness win.

"There were times I know he would be hurting, but he was determined to not just sit home and do nothing," Teresa Wilson said. "He still worked, did what he had to do and tried to come home and rest his body as much as he could." But one morning in 2018, something changed.

"It's kind of hard to explain," Wilson said. "I just woke up one day and my body was free from all pain."

The numbness and pain that Wilson was feeling throughout his body was gone.

He began running, working out and taking all the steps needed to make it back to the football field. He also reached out to collegiate programs, as he had one final year of eligibility and a desire to earn his degree in engineering physics.

But Wilson said Salisbury and head coach Sherman Wood were the ones who stood out.

"I emailed every college, D-I, D-II, D-III, within a two-hour radius of my house, and Coach Wood was the only coach to get back with me," Wilson said. "He said to come for a visit, and I came and told him I don't care who else hits me up after this, I'm here."

While Salisbury runs the triple-option offense, Wood said having physical threats out wide is invaluable, as it puts opposing defensive backs in a tough situation.

"He can absolutely break a game open if you let him," Wood said.

But getting on the field in the maroon and gold proved to be much more challenging.

Wilson had to sit out an extra year in order to fully restore his GPA and class standing as a Salisbury University student.

But recruiting coordinator Doug Fleetwood stayed dedicated to Wilson.

"We were excited about having him, and if it meant having to wait a little bit of time, then it meant having to wait a little bit of time," Fleetwood said. "He's certainly been worth the wait, I promise you that."

during these difficult times.

"We had been talking about a concept called E + R = O, so it's Event + Response = Outcome," Nein said. "That was one of the big things, that they had this event where he's diagnosed with cancer that could be terminal."

"Because of who he was as a person, their response was deeper than the game, it was deeper than wins and losses," Nein added.

Fierstein said the players were told they could not be in the locker room until after 6:30 p.m. that day.

The players had no idea what to expect. Fierstein said he thought it could have been t-shirts or maybe even a new TV, but the memorial had a much deeper impact.

"It was unbelievable," Fierstein said. "For everyone who knew Jack, and even the guys who didn't, it was just a really special moment."

Fierstein said Ferguson left his mark on everyone he played with. Even in the difficult times, they knew he was there for them and rooting for them to succeed.

When it comes to the values of the program, Fierstein said no Sea Gull has brought more pride to the maroon and gold.

"He represented the program better than anyone ever," Fierstein said. "He wanted the best for everyone and the best for the team, and he wanted you to have the best experience possible."

Building the memorial took a lot of planning and hard work on Nein's part, but he said he enjoyed every moment of organizing it.

Nein said he focused on every detail and making it the best it could possibly be because it's what Ferguson would have done.

"We wanted it to look great, because that's what Jack would want," Nein said. "That's how he carried himself in everything he did."

"We knew we were getting quality character and a quality person, and he just happens to be a pretty good football player, too."

Wilson said the way Fleetwood stayed in touch with him and kept an interest played a large role in his transition to Salisbury.

"Coach Fleetwood told me if it takes a year, Salisbury would wait for me," Wilson said. "I followed the team all last year, he would call me after every game, compared to most schools, who stopped calling when they found out I couldn't play last year."

Salisbury was also much closer to home for the Delaware native.

Wilson worked every day over the summer to ready himself for the 2019 campaign. He had seen the game he loves taken from him and knew how important this opportunity was.

Opportunity on the Horizon

Now, Wilson is a Mayo Clinic Comeback Player of the Year nominee and leads the third-ranked team in the nation in receiving.

"I knew what could happen if I got here ... I have a chance to do something great this season, I think that's kept me driven," Wilson said.

As the premier target for the Salisbury offense, Wilson has brought in 22 receptions for 393 yards and three touchdowns as of Dec. 5.

Wilson has also been a valuable cog in the machine for Salisbury, boasting an undefeated season and its first trip to the NCAA Tournament since 2015.

Despite every obstacle and challenge Wilson faced, his friends and family knew that he would come out on top.

"If anyone was going to come back from all of that, it would be O.T.," Ruth said. "To see him where he is now, it's encouraging and motivating."

Now with a conference championship in hand and a trip to the third round of the NCAA Tournament on Saturday, Wilson's life is drastically different from where it was just a few years ago.

But regardless of what the future may hold for Octavion Wilson, he has nothing but a positive outlook for the future.

"Right now, honestly, I'm just on cloud nine," Wilson said. "It doesn't get much better than that."

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